

# KSC and area attractions





# Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899  
(321) 449-4444

**[www.kennedyspacecenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com)**

TDD for hearing-impaired: (321) 454-4198

Current launch information:

(800) KSC-INFO (in Florida only)

## Hours/Admission:

The Visitor Complex opens daily at 9 a.m. Closing time varies seasonally. Closed Christmas Day and certain launch days. Guests should plan to spend a full day for a complete experience at the Visitor Complex.

Visitor Complex Admission — \$38 + tax for adults and \$28 + tax for children ages 3-11 — includes the KSC Tour, Shuttle Launch Experience, IMAX® films, the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and all attractions and exhibits.

Wheelchairs and strollers are available for complimentary use inside the main entrance. All exhibits and tours are wheelchair accessible.

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex resides on Florida's beautiful Space Coast. It is located on S.R. 405 (a.k.a. the NASA Causeway) just before the Kennedy entrance, accessible via S.R. 528, I-95 and S.R. 3. The Visitor

Complex is operated for NASA by concessioner Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts at KSC, Inc.

The origins of a visitor center for Kennedy date to the 1960s when public curiosity about the space program mushroomed. At first, only drive-through tours were permitted, but as interest continued to mount, the need for a permanent visitor center became clear. A site was selected in the mid-1960s, and in August 1967, the first official visitor center was opened. Since then it has undergone a number of expansions and upgrades.

The Visitor Complex today features a wide variety of exhibits and activities related to the space program, including guided bus tours of Kennedy and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

A space station-themed Ticket Plaza-Entranceway welcomes guests. An orientation center provides a multilingual guest service staff to greet guests. A display commemorating former President John F. Kennedy and his vision for America's space program plus a multimedia presentation are teasers for the exciting exhibits throughout the complex.

**Kennedy Space Center Tour:** A narrated, video-supplemented bus tour stops at the Launch Complex-39 observation gantry for a panoramic view of KSC, the space shuttle launch pads at the center and rocket launch pads



at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, then drives by the Vehicle Assembly Building and Orbiter Processing Facility. A second stop at the Apollo/Saturn V Center provides dramatic multimedia shows and numerous hands-on displays for an inspirational look into America's quest to the moon.

A separate bus takes guests to the International Space Station. Visitors view an informational briefing on the International Space Station and walk through full-scale mock-ups of space station modules. An elevated observation room overlooks the processing facility where visitors may witness actual components of the space station as they are checked out, processed and readied for their trip into orbit.

**Films:** Back-to-back IMAX® theaters showcase two exciting, large-format motion pictures on screens five-and-a-half stories tall!

**"Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon 3-D."** This film takes audiences to the lunar surface to walk alongside the 12 extraordinary astronauts who have been there to experience what they saw, thought and did. Presented and narrated by Tom Hanks, the film features rarely seen NASA footage, computer-generated images and live-action renditions of the lunar landscape to propel audiences nearly a quarter-million miles above the Earth's surface. (40 minutes)

**"Space Station 3-D."** Filmed by 25 astronauts and cosmonauts and narrated by actor Tom Cruise, this 3-D film takes guests on a cinematic journey of discovery from planet Earth to the newest star in the sky – the International Space Station. Via 3-D, visitors sit inside the space shuttle during launch, take a spacewalk and float through the space station. (45 minutes)

**Universe Theater: "Quest for Life."** Visitors to the Universe Theater can view this film that illustrates the need for humans to search for life in this galaxy and explore the unknown reaches of the universe.

**New! Shuttle Launch Experience:** The new Shuttle Launch Experience is an incredible journey of vertically launching into space and orbiting Earth aboard the space shuttle. Guest "crew members" strap in for this all-too-real simulation, which immerses visitors in the sights, sounds and feelings of a space shuttle launch, designed under the guidance of NASA and veteran space shuttle astronauts. The five-minute experience in the one-of-a-kind, custom-designed crew cabin culminates with a breathtaking view of Earth from space.

**Astronaut Encounter:** The KSC Visitor Complex is the only place on Earth where guests can come face to face



with a real astronaut every day of the year. This is a half-hour, interactive Q&A-oriented program.

**Mad Mission to Mars 2025:** This live-action stage show enables guests to visit Mars without leaving Earth. Using stereoscopic 3-D computer animation and spectacular theatrical effects, wacky characters Professor Pruvitt, Kelvin and WD-4D magically transform guests into "astronaut trainees," then guide them on an interactive journey through the cosmos where they learn principles essential for an astronaut to live and work in space.

**Shuttle Plaza:** A full-size orbiter replica, the "Explorer," allows guests to picture more clearly what it's like to live and work in space. Full-size, genuine solid rocket boosters and an external tank are also on display, representing all three components of a space shuttle. Actual space shuttle mission hardware is displayed at the nearby Launch Status Center, and live briefings on space-related topics are presented daily.

**Early Space Exploration:** Highlighting the Mercury and Gemini space programs, this facility features artifacts from the first manned spaceflights and houses the original Mercury mission control consoles. The exhibit is located





near the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Facility.

**Rocket Garden:** A hallmark of the complex, the outdoor "garden" features eight authentic rockets from the past, including a Mercury-Atlas rocket similar to the one used to launch John Glenn into space in 1962. The garden also features climb-in Mercury, Gemini and Apollo capsule replicas, seating pods and informative graphic elements.

**Exploration in the New Millennium:** Guests transition into the future of space exploration on a journey from the Vikings' discoveries of Greenland and Iceland to the Mars Viking Lander, the first probe to land on Mars in 1976. Guests not only can touch an actual piece of Mars, but also "sign up" for future Mars missions by providing an electronic signature that is stored on a microchip and forwarded to NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., for travel on a future Mars probe.

**Robot Scouts:** This creative, humorous walk-through exhibit highlights NASA's unsung heroes, the unmanned planetary robot probes that pave the way for human space-flight.

**Astronaut Memorial Mirror:** Dedicated May 9, 1991, the Astronaut Memorial honors U.S. astronauts who gave their lives for space exploration. The "Space Mirror," 42-1/2 feet high by 50 feet wide, illuminates the fallen astronauts'

names cut through the monument's black granite surface: the crews of the Challenger (lost in 1986) and Columbia (lost in 2003). (Other fallen workers are listed, as well.)

**"NASA Up Close" Tour:** The two-hour tour, led by a trained space expert, gives an insider's view of the space program from launch preparation to liftoff. Get up-close views of shuttle launch pads, the Vehicle Assembly Building, the Space Station Processing Facility and the Operations and Checkout Building, where astronauts prepare for their flights. Also featured are the Shuttle Landing Facility and crawler-transporter. Each visitor receives a special VIP kit.

Other exhibits, features and tours include:

- Lunch With an Astronaut.
- Cape Canaveral: Then and Now (tour).
- Nature and Technology: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (exhibit).
- NASA Art Gallery.
- Children's Play Dome.

## ***The Center for Space Education***

Built and operated by:

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc.

The Center for Space Education



Mail Code: AMF  
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899  
Information: (321) 452-2887

**Hours/Admission:**

The Center for Space Education is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Free admission.

The Center for Space Education is a “living memorial” to the honored astronauts. Located on six acres of the Visitor Complex, the facility encompasses 44,000 square feet (4,088 square meters) of state-of-the-art conference, classroom and instructional technology display areas.

The center houses the foundation’s Educational Technology Institute that provides training in instructional technology for educators and serves as a demonstration platform for cutting-edge instructional technology. Educators come from all sections of the country to take courses at The Center for Space Education.

Also located in the center are NASA’s educational programs at Kennedy, including the Educators Resource Center and Exploration Station. The former provides scientific and aerospace videos, text materials and 35 mm slides that can be copied by teachers (only) for use in the classroom. The latter provides programs for student groups and a hands-on science activities room that is open to the public.

## ***U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame***

S.R. 405  
Titusville, FL  
Information: (321) 269-6100

**Hours/Admission:**

Opens daily 9 a.m. Closing time varies with extended hours during summer and holiday periods.  
Closed Christmas Day.

Adults, \$17; children age 3 - 11, \$13 (included with KSC Visitor Complex Admission)

Located six miles west of the main Visitor Complex is the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, which is dedicated to telling the stories of America’s astronauts. Identified by the mockup of a full-size orbiter outside, the Hall of Fame features the world’s largest collection of personal astronaut mementos, plus historic spacecraft, hands-on activities and astronaut training simulators. Sit at a mission control console, take a virtual moonwalk, feel the pull of 4 Gs in the G-Force Simulator, and land the space shuttle!

The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame was established by the Mercury Seven Foundation, now known as the Astro-



A replica of a space shuttle orbiter (above) is on exhibit outside the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

naut Scholarship Foundation. The Hall of Fame is operated by Delaware North Parks and Resorts, operators of the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

## **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore**

*Kennedy Space Center, Fla.*

Kennedy comprises 140,000 acres, much of which are a wildlife refuge that exists alongside the launch pads, processing facilities and other sites, including the hazardous rocket propellant facilities. This other kind of “space” that comprises more than 500 different species of wildlife and 1,000 species of plants bears testimony that nature and technology can peacefully coexist.

When Kennedy was first established, NASA bought all of northern Merritt Island to provide the needed isolation for launches, leaving huge tracts of undeveloped land in their natural condition. In 1963, in cooperation with NASA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

In 1975 the Canaveral National Seashore was created. It is managed by the National Park Service. The refuge is one of the finest in the United States, managing habitat for 21 federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species, more than any other single refuge in the U.S.





Roseate spoonbills winter in the Wildlife Refuge.

## Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Manager  
P.O. Box 6504  
Titusville, FL 32782  
Information: (321) 861-0667

Hours/Admission:  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays only April - October.  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays/Sundays November - March.  
Closed on federal holidays.

The Visitor Information Center is located on Kennedy, S.R. 402, four miles east of Titusville. It offers displays describing the wildlife and habitats of the refuge, plus educational resources are available for sale through the book store. Several foot trails varying from one-half mile to five miles are also available.

Each Christmas, the Audubon Society conducts a count of the abundant bird population, many of which have migrated from points north. Fishing and duck hunting are permitted in season in certain areas; restrictions apply.

## Canaveral National Seashore

**Information Center:**  
7611 South Atlantic Avenue (A1A)  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169  
Information: (386) 428-3384, ext. 10

Hours:  
Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Christmas Day.

### Seashore Headquarters:

308 Julia Street  
Titusville, FL 32796-3521  
Information: (321) 267-1110

Beach Hours/Admission:  
6 a.m. to 6 p.m. winter/ 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. summer.  
A daily use fee per private vehicle or individual on foot or bike is collected to enter the park.

Co-located with the wildlife refuge on Kennedy is the Cape Canaveral National Seashore, a pristine stretch of undeveloped beach extending from just north of Launch Pad 39B to a little south of New Smyrna Beach.

Boardwalks provide beach access across the dunes from parking areas. Walking on the dunes is prohibited. Swimming and surfing are permitted. Lifeguards are stationed at only two locations, Playalinda Beach and Apollo Beach, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Surf fishing is permitted free of charge to Florida residents. All nonresidents of the state and all those fishing from a boat must have salt-water fishing licenses. They can be purchased at any county tax collector's office or at most bait and tackle shops. Boat ramps provide access to the Mosquito Lagoon and the Indian River.

Self-guided trails are located in the north district near New Smyrna Beach and at Seminole Rest in Oak Hill.

The Information Center has exhibits, publications and information. Call (321) 861-0667.

For information about programs led by park rangers, call or write the Information Center or park headquarters for a schedule or to make arrangements for an organization.



Launch pads at NASA's Kennedy Space Center border the beaches south of Cape Canaveral National Seashore.



Limited backcountry camping in the Seashore is permitted on the beach Nov. 1 through April 30, and on designated islands all year, by permit only.

Turtle Watches are available in June and July. Park visitors can join a ranger and watch a loggerhead sea turtle nest on the beach. Reservations are taken in May for June programs and in June for July programs. Call (321) 867-4077 or (386) 428-3384, ext. 10, for information about the programs.

## Astronaut Memorial Planetarium & Observatory

Brevard Community College  
1519 Clearlake Road  
Cocoa, FL 32922

### Information and updates:

(321) 433-7373 or (321) 433-7372  
[www.brevardcc.edu/planet](http://www.brevardcc.edu/planet)

### Hours/Admission:

The museum, observatory and demonstration hall are available for field trips and groups with a reservation. The public can view shows Wednesdays at 2 and 3 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. Admission is \$7/adult, \$6/seniors and students, \$4/children under age 12. Please call the phone number above for additional information.

The Astronaut Memorial Planetarium & Observatory is recognized as one of the best in the world. Located on the Cocoa campus of Brevard Community College, it incorporates groundbreaking technological advances that have yielded unparalleled images of the solar system.

Visitors to the Planetarium productions are treated to a view that is almost identical to the view of the sky as seen by astronauts orbiting the Earth hundreds of miles above its surface. The crisp, accurate and in-depth view of space is considered astonishing by international planetarium officials.

The 51,455-square-foot planetarium offers other unique ways to explore outer space. Underneath its 70-foot-high (21-meter) aluminum dome, the building houses:

- the *International Hall of Space Explorers*, honoring space explorers from around the world, such as

Yuri Gagarin and John Glenn.

- an *observatory* featuring one of the largest public-accessible telescopes in Florida, a 24-inch (61-centimeter) adapted-Cassegrain telescope to observe dim objects and deep space.
- the *Science Quest Demonstration Hall* featuring hands-on exhibits and displays, such as a Foucault pendulum and moon model, and participation in experiments illustrating scientific principles and aspects of space exploration.

## U.S. Space Walk of Fame and Space Museum

### Space Walk:

Space View Park on the river  
Broad and Indian River Avenue  
Titusville, FL

### Space Museum:

#4 Main Street  
Titusville, FL  
Information: (321) 264-0434

### Hours/Admission:

The Space Walk is a public attraction open weekdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on weekends. There is no admission charge for the monuments or the museum.

The U.S. Space Walk of Fame is dedicated to preserving space history and honoring the astronauts and workers of America's manned and expendable spaceflight programs. Astronauts are honored by placing their handprints in bronze at the monuments, and space workers can have their name engraved on the monument structure by contacting the office. The Space Walk of Fame features a promenade of walkways, seating areas, outdoor displays and educational and interpretive stations that explore the specific achievements of space pioneers.

The first exhibit, Project Mercury, which was unveiled in May 1995, includes a 20-foot (six-meter) sculpture depicting the astronomical symbol of the planet Mercury, which was used as the Project Mercury emblem. The exhibit also features bronze tablets with handprints and signatures from the Mercury astronauts, as well as flight data.

Another exhibit honoring the human spaceflight



programs succeeding Mercury is the Gemini Monument, completed and dedicated on Nov. 7, 1997.

Other exhibits in the planning stages are Apollo, Skylab, space shuttle and unmanned.

The Apollo monument broke ground July 16, 1999, exactly 30 years after the liftoff of Apollo 11. The space shuttle monument will be dedicated after the Apollo monument is completed.

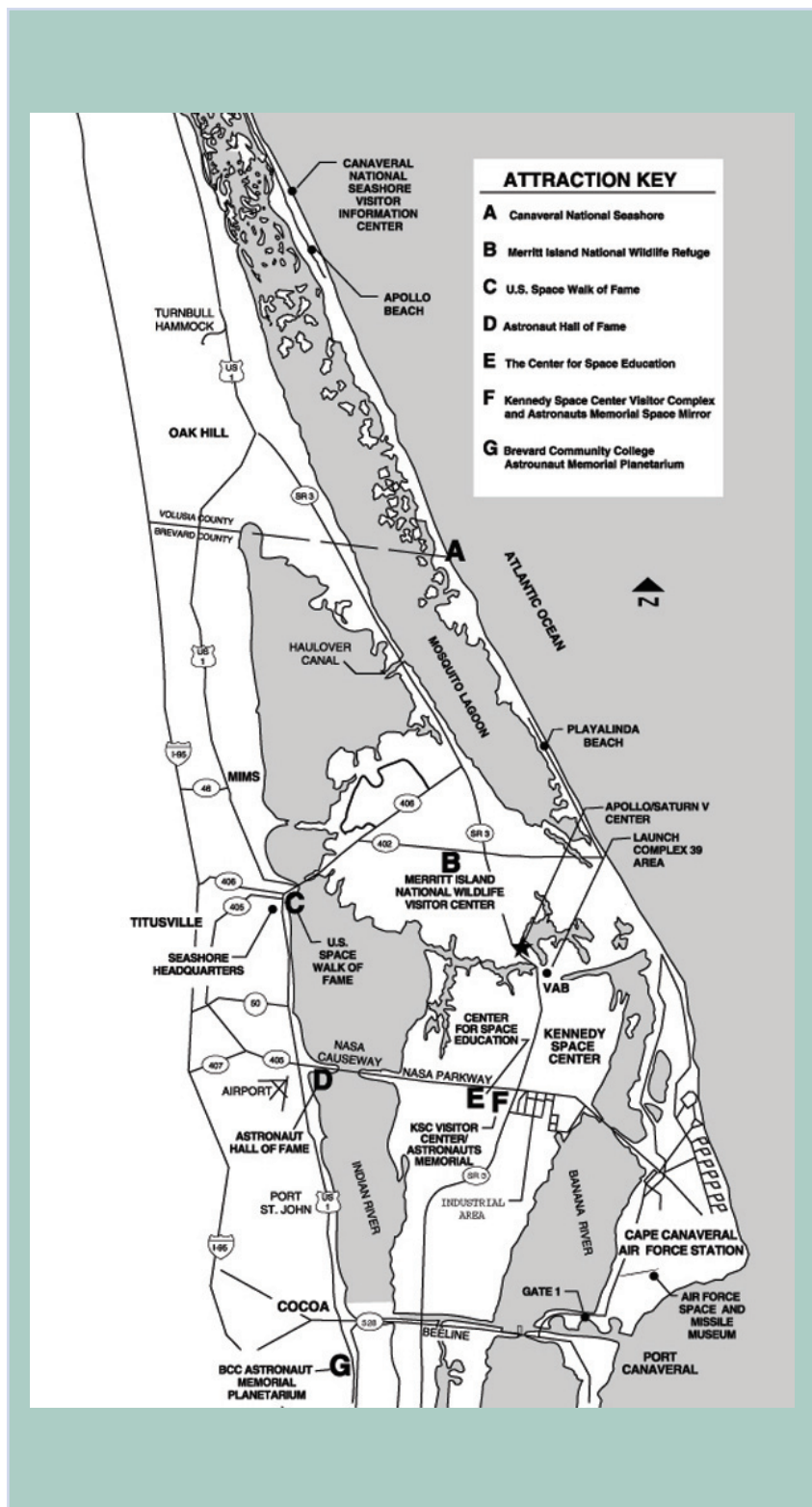
If you are interested in having your name engraved on the monument to the space program(s) that you worked on, please call Charlie Mars or Karen Conklin at (321) 264-0434.

In addition to the outdoor displays, the river-walk provides excellent public viewing areas of the shuttle launch pads located almost directly due east of Kennedy.

The Space Museum features items donated and on loan from active and retired space workers, aerospace companies, several astronauts, Kennedy, Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and Johnson Space Center in Houston. An electronic map, with audio/visual aids, presents the chronological history of the launch pads established by the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and NASA. After the last Atlas/Centaur was launched, many of the launch consoles used for the past 40 years were obtained and rewired for an interactive exhibit for the museum visitors (a great hit for the children as well as the grown-ups). This is the working man's museum with hands-on displays in abundance.

The museum sponsors a space art contest for the schools of Brevard County each year.

Restaurants are located nearby and the Space Walk also is conveniently close to the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the Canaveral National Seashore and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**John F. Kennedy Space Center**

Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)